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THE
French King's
REASONS
AGAINST
PEACE,

In His SPEECH in Council, just before
the last Courier was Dispatch'd, to the
Plenipotentiaries in *HOLLAND*.

Translated from the FRENCH.

HAVING heard your several
Debates on this Head of
PEACE, and finding, that
there are many of you for
being sincere in this Negotiation, and
allow the Confederates what they de-
mand, without Contending the Matter
any farther, since we find that my Ar-

mies can no where make a Stand against
the Enemy; and, therefore, that we
cannot hope for better Terms, but
must be fore'd, perhaps, to accept of
more severe. But, *Messieurs*, to re-
move all these Despondencies, which
I have too frequently found among
you on ev'ry Male-Adventure, that
has

has befall'n my Arms; I must let you know, that as I have always experienc'd in my Conquests, so I observe it still in my Ill-Fortune, I derive greater Success from my self than my Arms. 'Tis Conduct is the Prerogative of Man, Force is of Beasts, and Prudence of Celestial Stock and Origin.

Thus I gain'd all *Spain*, without the Loss of a Man; and thus I surpriz'd all the *Spanish Netherlands*, without a Blow; by the same Arts you may assure yourselves, I have not been idle in this ill Turn of Affairs to weigh and consider ev'ry Way, and Means, of taking a Fatherly Care of you my good Subjects, and of my own Grandeur and Reputation. It is known to you, that this Accursed Confederacy, which has been thus long fix'd against me is chiefly supported by that *Rebel-Island* of *England*; which has not scrupul'd to pour forth its Treasures, to enable the Petty-Princes to join and unite to forward my Ruin. This *Island*, I say, with that Petty Republick of *Holland*, are the Heart, and very Sinews of this Fatal War. I have attempted all that I cou'd in *Holland*; and have often stirr'd up Fewds in the little depending States, which I hop'd, might embroil the whole; but, alas! I have found not only so uncorruptible a Temper in the more knowing there, that they were not to be mov'd; but also, in those whom my Arts had engag'd in my Interest without their knowing it, by some specious Pretences drawn from their own Affairs, I have always found their Integrity, and Love to their Country calm them on their first Suspicion, that my Agents had any Hand in their Divisions; or in the least fomented their Anger and Resentments.

But in that *Island* I have found it much otherways; for tho' I have been more than once disappointed of my Expectations thence, by the Vigilance and Address of some Particulars, yet knowing that the Fewds of Religion are

more implacable and irreconcilable; than all Differences about *Rights* and *Property*, and of a Nature, which blinds the Understanding, and conjures up dire *Chimera's*, which fright the People so far out of their Wits, as that they cannot judge of the Right or Wrong in the most obvious Instances that are. I have made Use of that Engine, and when this is promoted by the Clergy, it flies like Wild-Fire, and takes such Root in credulous People, that there is nothing I may not expect from this very Point well manag'd.

You remember, that my Brother, King *James*, lost His Three Kingdoms, purely by the Clergy's Management of the Cause against Him; for if the Great Men of *England* had not engag'd the Hearts of the People by the Mediation of the Church-Clergy, their Resentments had been to as little Purpose, as those of *Spain* against my Grandson; for while we secure the Clergy, we need fear nothing from any other Hand.

Now there are in *England* two Things which the Clergy make Use of, to bring their Ends about: The Fear of *Papery*, and the Fear of *Presbytery*. The first Fear they had so good Ground for, that it was no Wonder, it spread so fatally around these Nations, as to create an universal Hatred of King *James*, for he not only was so weak, as to profess himself a *Roman Catholic* in the Midst of a *Protestant Country*; but to take those inartificial Methods of Compassing his Ends; which gave too visible a Confirmation of the General Apprehension of the Prevailing of the *Roman Catholic* Faith, and thus the Clergy, in spite of their flattering Doctrines of *Non-Resistance* and *Passive Obedience*, turn their King of Undoubted, and Acknowledg'd Right, out of His Kingdoms. But before Things cou'd be settl'd, some of the most active began to slacken, and at last to deny to submit, or swear to the New Establishment meerly out of Point of Conscience; and these I have always

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always found my True and Zealous Friends; and by their Means I did not doubt, but in Time, to accomplish my Ends, they gave frequent Proofs of their Fidelity to me, by the constant Informations they have given me, and the Plots and Machinations which they have endeavour'd to form for my Service, and tho' most of them have been unsuccessful, yet I constantly acknowledg'd their Endeavours, and supported the most active to continue their Zeal. From the Mischief that my Brother experienc'd from Disobliging the Clergy, I form'd the Design of Engaging them on my Side. There is a Party among them, who have an Eye on the Ancient Preheminence of their Order, and what Advantages the Priests have lost by a Reformation, which cuts off their Communication with a Power, which only cou'd maintain them free from the Jurisdiction of the Secular Power; This, therefore, I took Care to inspire them with the Hopes of, by the Restoration of a Prince, who had been bred to a Veneration of the Clergy. Then I employ'd one *Lesley*, who was so zealous for the *Knight of St. George*, that he never took the Oaths, who under Pretence of Writing for the Government, with his Art and Address so far undermin'd it, as to recover Numbers of the Inferior Clergy to a Remorse, for their Deserting their Doctrine of *Passive Obedience* and *Non-Resistance*; and tho' he did not prevail so far as to make them quit their Benefices for it, yet intoxicated them so far, as to make them own themselves perjur'd, when they not only took Oaths to the Government which stood on the Bottom of Resistance, but continu'd to enjoy the Benefit of these Oaths in their Benefices, while they, in their Pulpits, declar'd what they did Damnation.

This was so far from giving that stupid Nation any Abhorrence of so Irreligious and Blasphemous a Proceeding, that it spread the Doctrine among the

Laity, further than indeed I did imagine it was possible, after the whole Country had been so unanimous in Acting against it at the Revolution. But by this, being perswaded, that Providence, which had so long declar'd its Anger against me, was now touch'd with their Impieties, so far, as to insatuate them, which is the first Step, it generally takes in National Punishments; I therefore pursu'd my Point, and instructed my Agents to promote the Clergy's Preaching up, not only *Passive Obedience* and *Non-Resistance*, but the Danger of the Church. For, *Messieurs*, these Hereticks easily fear their Church in Danger, while we *Catholicks* know ours to be founded on a Rock, against which, the Gates of Hell shall not prevail; and in this, tho' their Preachers shew'd that they did not believe theirs to be the Church of Christ, which shall never fail; yet so were they dazzled by my Agents, and their own Desire of Power, that the Fear of the Church's Danger was spread far and near, and all the thoughtless People possess'd that the *Puritans*, or *Anti-Episcoparians* were endeavouring, nay, had near effected the Ruin of the Church of England. But to shew you, that I don't depend on meer *Chimera's*, and that the Islanders are prepar'd for Destruction, and what the Clergy can do for a good, as well as a bad End. — They spread this Fear when there was not one Fanatick employ'd in any Place of Trust, under a Queen, who has done more for the Church than all Her Royal Predecessors, and was always Her-self a Zealous Daughter of that Church, and bred in an Aversion to the Contrary Party. Judge you, therefore, whether I have not the best Reason to hope better Terms from the Madness of these People, than from a Treaty with Ministers, chose out from these, who are not my Friends.

It is plain, that nothing will convince them that they are doing my Work,

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Work, for tho' I was oblig'd to satisfy my own People, and appease their Clamours, to publish my Approbation of Dr. Sacheverell and his Conduct, and to let them know the great Confusions he and his Party had caus'd; from whence, my People who have more Sense than these Blockish Islanders, easily saw that their Case was not desperate, and that their Neighbours, while their Armies were assaulting me in my own Territories, were doing my Business at Home. Notwithstanding this open Conduct, this bare-fac'd Declaration for my Cause, the People, tho' averse to me, cannot see, that their Leader is my Agent; nay, while they declare for *Non-Resistance*, they assemble in Riots to Huzza a Condemn'd Criminal, who receiv'd his Sentence from the Supream Court of that Nation. *Messieurs*, After what I have said, can you doubt, that I shou'd any longer treat with the *Dutch*, and endure their Insolence. You will soon hear of the Dissolution of the *English* Parliament, which will, infallibly,

either cause a Civil War among themselves; or make Way for my Friends, whom the Clergy that are of my Side, will ev'ry where promote; and when they come into Power what may I not hope? But all Things are now ripe, we act all barefac'd, and perswade them, while the Restoration is visibly carrying on, that they are for the *Protestant* Succession, from a People so blind, so incurably blind, what need we fear, or how can we doubt their Destruction and our Triumph.

Let there be, therefore, Dispatches sent for my Plenipotentiaries to return, and let them depart with a Haughtiness worthy the Majesty of my Empire; for assure your selves, that sickle Island, that has expended so many Millions against me, led now by the High Clergy will not, cannot see, and will do all I can desire, to make me amends; and for my Charge will be at as great an Expence, to pay me for Maintaining their Abdicated King, and His Son, and Queen.

After this Speech the Council broke up, and a Courier was dispatch'd to call home their Plenipotentiaries; so that the visible Reason that we have not Peace, is the Disturbances and Progress of *Sacheverell*.

F I N I S.

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